

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDE-00 ERDA-05 AF-06

ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-06 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NASA-01 NEA-09 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01

PRS-01 OES-03 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDE-00 /116 W

----- 033057

P R 231701Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0465

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06146

(CORRECTED COPY PARA 2 (B) LINE THREE ADDED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: LASER FUSION

1. AT END OF APRIL 22 U.S./UK/SOVIET CONSULTATIONS ON NPT REVCON, VAN DOREN (AFTER PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS WITH UK DEL.) RAISED PROBLEM OF HANDLING LASER FUSION PROBLEM BOTH IN CONTEXT OF IAEA DG'S ATTEMPTS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM AND IF RAISED AT REVCON.

2. VAN DOREN SAID WE WISHED TO DEFUSE THIS PROBLEM, AND TO AVOID FOLLOWING DIFFICULTIES:

TRYING TO DEFINE WHAT A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WAS;

(A) TRYING TO DEFINE WHAT A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WAS;

(B) GIVING A RESPONSE THAT WAS BROADER THAN NECESSARY, WITH THE RISK THAT IT COULD LIMIT FUTURE ABILITY TO CONTROL CONCEIVABLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS THAT

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ITY TO CONTROL CONCEIVABLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS THAT

MIGHT HAVE WEAPONS IMPLICATIONS; AND

(C) REACHING THE CONCLUSION THAT THE TYPES OF EXPERIMENTS AND REACTORS ABOUT WHICH THE QUESTION HAD BEEN RAISED INVOLVED NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE NPT AND IAEA SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS, SINCE THIS WOULD EITHER MEAN THAT NNWS WERE FORECLOSED FROM ANY WORK IN THIS FIELD WHILE NON-PARTIES WERE NOT, OR THAT SOME PNE'S WERE ACCEPTABLE FOR NNWS UNDER THE TREATY AND OTHERS WERE NOT.

3. VAN DOREN NOTED THAT IAEA DG HAD ISSUED A FURTHER LETTER ON THE SUBJECT ON APRIL 21, AND UK DEL. DISTRIBUTED TEXT THEREOF AS RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE FROM VIENNA.

4. SOVIETS INDICATED THAT MORUKHOV WAS THEIR EXPERT ON THIS SUBJECT, AND THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS IN LONDON, HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MEET ON THE SUBJECT THAT AFTERNOON. ACCORDINGLY, THEY ASKED IF WE COULD GIVE THEM NOTES ON THE SUBJECT TO CONVEY TO HIM. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS THEY STRESSED THAT SOVIETS WERE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO DG'S EFFORTS TO CONVENE MEETING OF EXPERTS ON SUBJECT.

5. VAN DOREN GAVE TO UK AND SOVIET DELS. INFORMAL NOTES GIVING SUGGESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT; SET FORTH IN PARAS 7 AND 8 BELOW.

6. UK DELEGATION SAID WHILE NO FORMAL UK POSITION REACHED ON SUBJECT, THEY WERE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH APPROACHED SUGGESTED. EDMONDS SAID UK DELEGATION IN VIENNA WOULD ADVISE U.S. MISSION BY END OF WEEK WHETHER THEY WERE PREPARED TO FOLLOW U.S. SUGGESTIONS.

7. BEGIN TEXT

"(A) WE SHOULD ALL TAKE THE LINE THAT NEITHER
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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDE-00 ERDA-05 AF-06

ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-06 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NASA-01 NEA-09 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01

PRS-01 OES-03 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDE-00 /116 W

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P R 231701Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0466

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 06146

ARTICLE II OF THE NPT, NOR THE PROHIBITION IN IAEA SAFE-
GUARDS AGREEMENTS OF DIVERSION TO ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE
DEVICE, PROHIBITS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON, OR OPERA-
TION OF, POWER REACTORS OF THE TYPE THAT GAVE RISE TO
THESE QUESTIONS.

(B) WE SHOULD CONFINE OUR RESPONSE TO THE SPECIFIC
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT ABOUT WHICH THE QUESTIONS HAVE ARISEN/
SO AS NOT TO GIVE A BLANK CHECK THAT COULD PERMIT OTHER
CONCEIVABLE DEVELOPMENTS THAT MIGHT BE PUT TO WEAPONS
USE.

(C) WE SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO GIVE A GENERAL DEFIN-
ITION OF WHAT DOES CONSTITUTE A "NUCLEAR EXPLOSION" FOR
THESE PURPOSES.

(D) WE ARE CONSIDERING A STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT
ALONG THE LINES OF THE DRAFT SET FORTH IN PARA. 3 BELOW
(WHICH USDEL WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO BRITISH AND SOVIET
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DELS AS AN UNOFFICIAL DRAFT).

(E) IF WE ARE ALL PREPARED TO TAKE THE SAME LINE
ON THIS SUBJECT, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD EACH SEPARATELY
GIVE ADVICE TO THE IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL BEFORE THE OPEN-
ING OF THE NPT REVCON ALONG THE FOREGOING LINES.

8. DRAFT OF SUGGESTED STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS: "A QUES-
TION HAS BEEN RAISED WITH RESPECT TO ENERGY SOURCES, OF A
KIND ON WHICH RESEARCH HAS BEEN REPORTED, INVOLVING NUCL-
EAR REACTIONS INITIATED IN MILLIMETER SIZED PELLETS OF

FISSIONABLE OR FUSIONABLE MATERIAL BY LASERS OR BY ENER-
GETIC BEAMS OF PRACTICES, IN WHICH THE ENERGY RELEASES,
WHILE EXTREMELY RAPID. ARE DESIGNED TO BE, AND WILL BE,
NON-DESTRUCTIVELY CONTAINED WITHIN A SUITABLE VESSEL. ON
THE BASIS OF OUR PRESENT UNDERSTANDING OF THIS TYPE OF
ENERGY SOURCE, WHICH IS STILL AT AN EARLY STAGE OF RESEA-
RCH, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A
NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE NPT OR
UNDERTAKINGS IN IAEA SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS AGAINST DIVER-
SION TO ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE." END TEXT.

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